

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 remain for consideration, and all claims are thought to be allowable over the cited art.

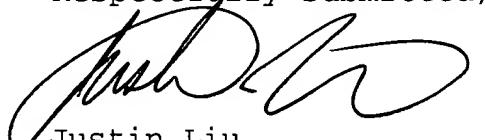
New claims 8-12 are added to claim the invention in alternative language.

The Office Action does not establish that claims 1-7 are unpatentable under 35 USC §102(e) over US publication 2001/0015919 A1 to Kean ("Kean"). The accompanying Rule 1.131 Declarations demonstrate that the claimed invention predates Kean, and thus Kean is not prior art. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-7 is moot.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

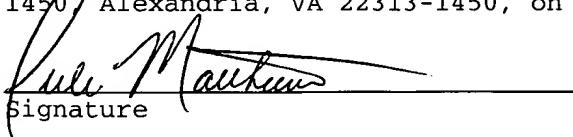
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 23, 2004.

Julie Matthews
Name


Signature